

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 071428Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2236

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8337

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, LE

SUBJECT: CHARGE LANE VISIT TO EAST BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 8333

1. CHARGE AND PARTY MADE NO FURTHER CALLS NOV 6 AFTER VISIT TO PATRIARCH KHURAYSH. BEGAN CALLS NOV 7 AT 0915, PROBABLY ON GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP SALIBI, AN NAHAR EDITOR GHASSAN TUEINI AND FORMER MINISTER FOUAD BOUTROS. AT 1245 PARTY HAD DEPARTED U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE.

2. AN NAHAR CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORT NOV 7 ON CHARGE'S NOV 6 CALLS. HIGHLIGHTS: AFTER MEETING WITH CHARGE, KAMEL ASSAD SAID "THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH WILL AFFECT NOT ONLY LEBANON BUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." AFTER MEETING WITH FRANGIE AT 1100, CHARGE TOLD PRESS HE WAS "VERY GLAD TO HAVE MET PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND WAS VERY GLAD TO HAVE MET PRESIDENT SARKIS YESTERDAY." PAPER SAID CHARGE HAD LUNCH WITH MARONITE PATRIARCH KHURAYSH, WHO LATER TOLD PRESS THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS "FOCUSED ON THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE U.S. CAN GIVE TO ESTABLISH SECURITY AND STABILITY IN LEBANON AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS RECONSTRUCTION." CHARGE, IN RESPONSE TO A PRESS QUESTION, SAID HE HAD VISITED PATRIARCH "TO OBTAIN HIS BLESSING AND CONSULT WITH
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HIM."

3. STILL ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, ASKED ABOUT U.S. POLICY DURING U.S. TRANSITION PERIOD, CHARGE SAID "THE POLICY OF THE U.S. IS REMAINING AS IT IS, AS EXPLAINED BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, UNTIL JANUARY 20," AND EXPLAINED TRANSITIONAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN FORD AND CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS. PAPER SAID "INFORMED SOURCES" HAD EXPLAINED THAT LANE MISSION, LIKE EARLIER HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION, WAS PRIMARILY TO COLLECT INFORMATION. PAPER SAID, ALLUDING TO "A POLITICAL SOURCE," THAT "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WILL CONFINE ITS MISSION IN LEBANON DURING THE RANSITION PERIOD TO WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS AND SUBMITTING REPORTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT."
LANE

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